

*D<sup>1</sup>* 2. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the inert atmosphere is obtained by purging the curing zone with inert gas, wherein said gas does not react with said coating.

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*D<sup>2</sup>* 4. (Thrice Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein an oxygen concentration of the curing zone is less than 1,000 parts per million.

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*✓*  
Please cancel claim 8 without prejudice or disclaimer.

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